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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Patent Application of: |) | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Brigitte Bathe, et al. |) | Examiner: Kathleen Kern |
| App. No.: 09/942,935 |) | Group Art Unit: 1652 |
| Filed: August 31, 2001 |) | |

For: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES CODING FOR THE sigM GENE

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2003 was due by February 3, 2004. A Petition for Extension of Time (one month, large entity) is enclosed, extending the date to March 3, 2004. Therefore, please accept this Amendment as timely filed and fully responsive.

In response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2003, kindly amend the aboveidentified patent application as follows:

> 03/05/2004 SSESHE1 00000141 09942935 01 FC:1202 02 FC:1201 03 FC:1203 290.00 0P